

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 17, 18, 21 through 24, 26 through 28, 31 through 34, 36, 37, 47, 48, 51 through 54, 56, 57, and 59 through 61 are pending, with Claims 17, 23, 24, 27, 33, 34, 47, 53, 54, 59, 60, and 61 being independent.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over newly-cited U.S. Patent No. 6,473,793 B1 (Dillon, et al.) — which is the parent of the subject divisional application — in view of previously-cited U.S. Patent No. 5,699,369 (Guha)

All rejections are respectfully traversed. The Official Action relies upon portions of cols. 4, 5, and 14 through 16 of Dillon, et al. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the relied-upon portions of Dillon, et al. do not constitute prior art under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. In more detail, the subject application is a division of Dillon, et al. and claims benefit of its filing date, with Dillon, et al. and the subject application both claiming benefit of Appln. No. 60/106,933. While Dillon, et al. further claims benefit of Appln. Nos. 08/804,314 and 08/257,670, Applicants respectfully submit that the latter two applications do not contain a description of the relied-upon portions of Dillon, et al. as a result of which those portions do not constitute prior art under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. MPEP 706.02(f)(1), 2136.03(IV). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If any questions remain, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative, Craig L. Plastrik, at (301) 601-7252 to schedule a personal interview. Favorable consideration in this regard is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at (202) 530-1010.

Respectfully submitted,

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